

April 3, 2006
FY 2006
Application Information

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

2006 FARM AND RANCH LANDS PROTECTION PROGRAM

PROPOSAL APPLICATION FOR SOUTH CAROLINA FRPP FUNDS

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Organization Name:
Address:
Contact Person:
Phone:
Fax:
Organization's Employer Identification Number:

Submit completed proposal application to:

Craig C. Ellis, Assistant State Conservationist (Programs)
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
1835 Assembly Street, Suite 950
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 253-3930

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Application Number: 06-

Date Received: _____

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The answers to the questions in this application will be used for the evaluation and prioritizing of FRPP proposals submitted to the NRCS for FY 2006. Please ensure all items asked for are either included in the FRPP proposal write up, or are attached to this application as a supplement. Your responses could set your proposal apart from similar applications. It is to your benefit to be descriptive, yet to the point in your responses.

Proposal applications must be received in the NRCS State Office, Columbia, South Carolina, by close of business on May 11th 2006. Fax transmittals will not be accepted.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS (All answers must be YES)

1. Is the applicant a unit of government or a non-governmental organization as described in section 170(h)(4) and section 501(c)(3), 509(a)(2) or 509(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986?
- 2a. Is the primary purpose of the easement for the protection of farmland soils including prime farmland or soils of statewide importance according to the identification of such soils maintained by NRCS, South Carolina?

- OR -

- 2b. Is the parcel located on a farm listed or designated eligible for listing on the National, Tribal, or State Registry of Historic or Archaeological Sites? Provide documentation.
3. Is there an NRCS and SWCD approved conservation plan on the parcel, or is there a pending conservation plan for the parcel? (Note: All highly erodible land (HEL) enrolled in the USDA Farm and Ranch Protection Program easements must have a conservation plan developed and implemented. The conservation plan must be signed by the landowner prior to recording the easement. Conservation plans on all enrolled land must meet the criteria as outlined in FRPP Attachment 2 – Conservation Plan Requirements.)
4. Is the parcel free of any easements or deed restrictions that prevent its conversion to non-agricultural use?
5. Is there a pending offer for the acquisition of the easement with at least 50% of the negotiated purchase price available to purchase easement rights?
6. Is the land owned by an individual or entity that does not exceed the Adjusted Gross Income Limitation (see CMP, Part 508)?

APPLICANT INFORMATION

- Please describe your organization's ability, both legally and programmatically, to acquire, manage, and enforce easements.
- What is your organization's mission statement, or policy, regarding farmland protection?
- What are your organization's criteria used to set the acquisition priorities?
- What is your organization's source of funds for farmland protection?
- How much money does your organization have for the purchase of easements in 2005?
- What is your organization's title and appraisal policy?
- What is the applicant's financial contribution toward the purchase of the easement?
- Total amount requested from the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program?
- Is the applicant willing to provide more than 50% of the easement's negotiated purchase price (NPP)? If so, at what percentage? If the applicant is partnering with another organization in the acquisition and holding of the easement, please state the partner's name, address, and their estimated financial contribution. (**Note:** Under the FRPP, NRCS may provide up to 50 percent of the appraised fair market value of the conservation easement. Landowner donations up to 25 percent of the appraised fair market value of the conservation easement may be considered part of the entity's matching offer. For the entity, two cost-share options are available when providing its matching offer. One option is for the entity to provide in cash at least 25 percent of the appraised fair market value of the conservation easement. The second option is for the entity to provide at least 50 percent of the purchase price, in cash, of the conservation easement. The second option may be preferable to an entity in the case of a large bargain sale by the landowner. If the second option is selected, the NRCS share cannot exceed the entity's share.)
- **Please provide an example of your organization's easement deed; a copy of the pending offer on the parcel; and the easement's total appraised fair market value, or market analysis, signed by a South Carolina Certified General Land Appraiser with Yellow Book experience. (Include names, address, and phone number of the Certified Land Appraiser.)**

PARCEL INFORMATION

- What is the size of the parcel(s) in acres? (10-acre minimum)
- Summary of Pending Easement Offers for all farms included in the proposal.
- Provide landowner name(s), address and phone number.
- Location of the parcel(s) – Include a tax map, topographic map and soils map with the parcel(s) identified. Please state if there are any mining rights or rights of way that affect the parcel(s).
- Provide a map of any Federal, State, local or private conservation easements on land in the vicinity of the offered parcel(s).
- List the parcel's soil map units and acres. Identify each soil map unit as prime or statewide important. Include the applicable county's prime and statewide important soils list as an attachment.
- Include a copy of the NRCS conservation plan for all easements containing highly erodible land (HEL).

- What is the owner's intended use of the parcel(s) if the conservation easement is purchased? Discuss any plans that the landowner has made regarding the farm's succession. Include business plan with investment strategy, time frames, etc.
- Provide documentation of the parcel's historical, cultural, scenic or environmental qualities.
- Discuss the social, economic and environmental benefits that the parcel provides to the community.
- Is the operation self-standing and/or connected with other operations in the area? Describe the adequacy/deficiency of agricultural infrastructure, support services and facilities in the area where the parcel(s) is located.
- Describe the likelihood of conversion to non-agricultural use, either due to urban land-use pressure, or due to economic viability or both. Identify what, if any, type of zoning is enforced that affects the parcel and/or adjacent parcels.

NOTE: Provide documentation for every category receiving points on the FRPP RANKING FOR FY2006.